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Farmer's and Gardener's Remembrancer.

[BY THE EDITOR.]

REMARKS ON PLOUGHING.

Although we have in the first volume of this work, pages 60, 278, 393, treated on this subject, some further observations on the most important operation of agriculture may, perhaps, prove beneficial, to practical farmers, by furnishing hints, and suggesting ideas which may lead to a train of investigation terminating in results of importance.

In all stiff, heavy and adhesive soils, that are much disposed to moisture, it should be a common rule not to plough them while wet in any considerable degree, especially if there is much clay in their composition. When such land is ploughed wet, the particles of which it is composed are apt to cake, or run together into hard lumps, which require much trouble and labour to reduce to a fine state. Besides, much injury is produced by the treading of the team, and greater power is necessary in performing the operation. But, on the other hand, such soils are ploughed with much difficulty, when very dry; unless before the ploughing they were in a state of tillage, and not baked or bound down very hard. To break up grass ground composed of a strong loam, or a soil in which there is clay in any considerable quantity when in a dry state, is next to impossible. You might almost as well attempt to plough up a brick pavement, or slate rock. Green sward in general, can hardly be ploughed too wet, if it be not miry. Marshy, moory, and peaty or mossy descriptions of soil, should in general, when already reduced to a state of tillage, be ploughed when the season is dry.

In dry, sandy, and perhaps, in some of the more mellow kinds of loamy soils, the business of ploughing may be performed when the earth is in a state of considerable moisture. But very dry sandy land, whenever the weather is hot and dry, should merely be stirred in such a way as may be necessary to prevent the growth of weeds; otherwise the great exhalation of moisture in such seasons may render them too dry for the vigorous vegetation of the seeds or plants, which may be sown or growing upon them. The cultivators of this kind of soil have, therefore, many advantages over others who are engaged in the more stiff and heavy sorts of land, in being able to perform the various operations of arable husbandry with much less strength and expense of team, and by being much less interrupted by the wetness of the seasons. Stiff clayey soils, which are already under the plough, may be beneficially ploughed in dry weather, and it is said that stirring such soils in a dry season, causes them to imbibe moisture, but in sandy soils the opposite result is produced by the same means.

It is very fashionable, and as a general rule, very correct to recommend deep ploughing. But this rule has a great many exceptions, and the cultivator, who should be governed by it without regard to the nature of the soil, and the proposed crops, would only labour hard to injure his land, and reduce his products. We have already in vol. i. page 60, given "Maxims respecting the proper depth of ploughing," and "Advantages of deep ploughing." It may not be amiss to attend to what some writers have observed respecting the dangers and disadvantages, which attend ploughing deep without regard to the nature of the soil and other circumstances. It is observed in Dickson's Agriculture that "though deep ploughing has been recommended by some modern writers upon particular kinds of land, where the bottom and top were of two opposite qualities, and neither of them perfectly good, that a mixture may sometimes be very beneficial, and the experiment of going below the common depth sometimes answer. But that when the top and bottom for eighteen or twenty inches depth consists of the same soil, it is not believed it is ever worth while to exchange the upper part, which has been enriched for centuries back, for a part less rich, merely because it is more fresh. On retentive soils, where the practice of loosening them to some depth by other implements is omitted, deep ploughing is, however, extremely necessary."

In an "Essay on the best Means of converting Grass Lands into Tillage, by James Roper Head, Esq." published in *Communications to the Board of Agriculture*, vol. iii. page 346, it is observed that "it seems reasonable to prefer light to heavy ploughing, because, all things being equal, it must be preferable to have a small depth of soil to cultivate and improve, and inasmuch as the fibres of grass in general are fed from the upper surface of the earth alone, if they find sufficient pabulum; all that lie underneath their nourishment, and has been with much labour moved by the plough, is like a stock in trade, which requires an extra capital, unproductive of interest.

"I have endeavoured by all means to search into the nature of sainfoin, clover, and lucern, and the result of my opinion has been that the long penetrating tap roots of these grasses pierce the earth in search of moisture only; that the tap root is the mere syphon and duct; that the branches of the crown of the plant are fed alone by the upper surface of the soil; and that the luxuriancy of their produce depends not upon the congeniality of the bed or *nidus* [nest] of the tap root itself; but on the congeniality of the soil of the upper surface, which alone feeds and furnishes it vegetation."

An article in "Communications to the Board of Agriculture" vol. iv. page 147, written by John M. Mardo, Esq. contains the following statement. "We have witnessed instances where old pasture lands, composed of a gravelly loam were broken up in the spring for barley by trench ploughing. The old sward was turned into the bottom of the furrow, and a dry subsoil brought to the surface from a considerable depth. The crops failed entirely, and there appeared two very obvious reasons for the failure; first, the subsoil brought to the surface to form the seed bed had long been deprived of the ordinary influence of the atmosphere, and the rains; consequently must have been cold and infertile. Secondly, the dry tenacious sward having been placed half broken under the seed bed, the natural moisture of the ground, as well as that which falls in rain, was speedily and habitually evaporated; unless in a season of uncommon moisture, a crop under such preparation could not prosper."

A writer in the General Report of Scotland, Mr. James Brownhill, says "Old Leas, [Grassgrounds] in my opinion should be ploughed if possible not above 4½ inches deep by 8½ or 9 inches broad. If the old lea be a dry soil, it will plough very well with those dimensions; if it be ploughed deeper it must also be ploughed broader, as the furrows will not ply close to one another, unless you have breadth in proportion to the depth."

Sir John Sinclair speaks highly of the advantages of deep ploughing in some circumstances and for some crops, but says "it is a general rule never to plough so deep as to penetrate below the soil that was formerly manured and cultivated excepting upon fallow, and then only, when you have plenty of lime or dung to add to, and improve the new soil." The farmers of Flanders, which is said to be the best cultivated part of Europe, gradually deepen their soil by ploughing or digging up fresh earth, as their manure increases. Mr. Arthur Young likewise observes that in poor hungry soils some proportion ought to be observed between the depth of a ploughing and the quantity of manure annually spread. The same writer informs us that the depth of ploughing in various towns of England, on an avarage in sandy soils was four inches; in loamy soils four and three quarters, and in clayey soils three inches and a half. But a note in Sir John Sinclair's "Code of Agriculture" informs that "Mr. Parker of Munden, prefers nine inches for the depth of ploughing, and he has practised that system for many years, on good loamy land in Huntingdonshire, as well as in the clays and flints of Hertfordshire. He never lost a crop by it, but has met with unvaried success; and he is clearly of opinion, that the propriety of deep ploughing ought not to be made a question, but received as an admitted truth. The farming gardeners near London, act upon the same system with great success. They plough to the depth of from ten to twelve inches, for cabbages and other crops, with implements made on purpose, and with from six to eight powerful horses. Mr. Marshall has known a succession of shallow ploughing farmers beggared on a stiff land farm; and their successors by deeper tillage, make a farmer's fortune upon it."

We have heretofore, vol. i. page 278, given some remarks on the advantages of Fall Ploughing, and showed wherein it was in general to be preferred to ploughing in the spring. We shall add nothing at this time, to that part of our subject, but hope our agricultural readers will attend to *Horizontal Ploughing*. In page 14, of our first volume we have given an article on the subject of drawing horizontal or perfectly level furrows on hilly lands, and given a cut of the rafter level; or implement introduced into Virginia by Col. Randolph, son in law to Mr. Jefferson.

Whether the rafter level has yet been introduced in this part of the United States, we cannot say, although we are informed that it is a very common implement of agriculture in Virginia. Those who do not like to try a newthing, may perhaps, derive some advantage from the following observations on horizontal ploughing copied from *Deane's New England Farmer.*

"Regard should be had to the shape of the land in ploughing. They who plough a steep hill up and down injure their cattle, and miss of ploughing their land to advantage. The furrow that is drawn up hill must be excessively shoal; or the team much stronger than common. For this reason a hill should be ploughed horizontally, with rows as nearly parallel to the base as possible. This may be easily done when all the sides of a hill are to be ploughed at once. The rains will carry much of the finest of the soil to the bottom of the hill if the furrows are made up and down. But ploughed the other way the furrows will be sufficient drains; and the water will move so slowly in them that none of the soil will be washed away. But when a hill is very steep, no turning of a furrow upwards should be attempted. And if only one side of a steep hill is to be ploughed, the furrows should be all cut the same way, the team returning light after each furrow."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

CATTLE SHOWS.

The fourth Annual Cattle Show, and Exhibition of the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry was holden at Pawtuxet, on the 15th and 16th of October, 1823. The Committee for the examination of Live Stock, and awarding premiums thereon (Hon. Tristram Burgess, Chairman,) made a report, from which the following is extracted:

"The general appearance of the stock was highly satisfactory, and strongly indicated the progress of improvement. The committee know how much all the success of farming depends on the animals propagated and reared for agricultural purposes. They are in a manner associated with us in the toils of the fields, and contribute greatly to all our household comforts —the skilful farmer realizes the strength of the ox and accommodates himself with the speed of the horse; and the other animals raised by his care and skill, and fed from his hand, reward him with food and clothing, and give to his habitation some of its best ornaments and most commodious luxuries. It is not needful for us to remind such a man how much of all this depends on the care and skill with which he makes his selections among the various breeds of domestic animals which have been offered to his choice by a bountiful Providence. Much indeed depends on feeding, but more perhaps, on the animal chosen for that purpose; and we can sometimes almost realize the dream of the Egyptian monarch in reviewing the cattle of two different farmers. It is a principle in the branch of agricultural economy, that those animals should be sought after by the farmer which will give him the most in return for the least received of him. In awarding the premiums offered by the society, the committee have been governed by this principle. They are gratified with the emulation of all their farming brethren who have entered into this competition so highly beneficial to the best interests of the community."

Then follows a list of the premiums, which is too long for insertion.

The committee on *Shop Manufactures* observed that "they were much pleased with a model of a newly invented Spinning Machine, called the "Balance Flyer Throstle," presented by Mr. E. Fuller, of Cranston. This Machine has the appearance of being a valuable and important improvement in spinning cotton, particularly of slack twisted yarns. They have awarded him the Society's certificate of approbation and withheld the premium, there being no competition."

Among the Household Manufactures for which premiums were awarded were Imitation Leghorn Bonnets, Straw Bonnets, Carpeting, Hose, Flannels, Counterpanes, a Sampler, Map of the United States by Anne Calden, of Providence, Fancy Shell Baskets, Picture Drawing—one Trunk, containing Fancy Articles by the Young Ladies' Academy, Providence, Net Curtains, &c. &c.

"The Committee were highly gratified at seeing Dr. Benjamin Dyer, of Providence, clad in a complete suit of silk of a superior quality, manufactured in his own family, even from the culture of the trees to the growing of the worms, producing the material. Such exertions to independence in our manufactures, in this article, by this spirited individual, not only deserves the praise and approbation of the committee, but merits the applause of the public."

Premiums were likewise awarded on Mill Manufactures and on Ploughing. A pair of three years old steers, owned and driven by Mr. Nicholas Waterman, of Johnston, "ploughed one eighth of an acre of ground, well, in the short space of 15 minutes and 50 seconds." The exhibition of draught oxen was highly commended by the Committee.—*Abridged from the Farmers' and Manufacturers' Journal.*

The *Bristol County Agricultural Society* held its first annual Exhibition in Taunton, Oct. 21 and 22, 1823. A variety of articles, in the department of manufactures, wrought in families and in manufacturing establishments was exhibited, together with live animals, and the products of the soil and the dairy and excited the surprise and delight of the most sanguine well-wishers of the Society. At 12 o'clock, ap appropriate prayer by the Rev. Mr. Hamilton, an elegant and instructive address, by the Hon. Francis Baylies, and very excellent music formed the exercises at the Meeting House of the First Congregational Society. After the address the Society formed a procession, which repaired to Mr. Atwood's Hotel, where, with invited guests they partook of an excellent dinner. In the afternoon the several Committees on Manufactures, Agricultural Products and Animals, prepared their Reports, which were announced on the following day in the Meeting House. On the second day, in the afternoon, the Ploughing Match took place near the Academy, witnessed by a vast number of delighted spectators.—Three teams, of one yoke each, entered the field, and ploughed one eighth of an acre each, in as short a time, considering the hardness of the sward through which the plough passed, as the annals of ploughing matches in this country have ever reached—and the neatness of the work, as well as the expertness of the performance, gained the warmest applause of the committee and many experienced farmers present. Immediately after the ploughing match there was an auction of some animals, in the Hall of the Society. Among the *Domestic Manufactures*, which received premiums were the following articles:—Cotton Sheeting, Cotton Shirting, Satinet, Carpeting, Hearth Rugs, Cotton and Woollen Flannel, an Imitation Leghorn Bonnet, Straw Bonnets, Boots, Calf skins, a Beaver Hat, a Plough, an Axe, Rose Blankets, Sewing Cotton, a Bit-Stock and Bit, Shovels and Weavers' Shuttles, Linen Sheeting and Shirting.

The following articles were recommended as entitled to *Certificates of Excellence;* a beautiful quilted Counterpane, fine specimens of cotton and linen Diaper, a beautiful shell work Basket, Hearth Rugs and Calf skin Boots. The *Agricultural Products* were mostly of the usual kinds excepting fine specimens of peach and apple trees, produced by inoculation the present season, by Jacob Dean, of Mansfield, and Potatoes produced from the seed of the present season, some of them as large as hen's eggs, by James P. Lyon. The time in which the Ploughing was completed was as follows; Abner Thayer one eighth of an acre in twenty-one minutes, Samuel Crocker, twenty-three minutes, and Samuel Robertson, twenty-three minutes.

Officers of the Bristol County Agricultural Society for the ensuing year.

Hon. Samuel Crocker, Taunton, President; Hon. Oliver Starkweather, Seekonk, Rev. Pitt Clark, Norton, Rev. Otis Thompson, Rehoboth, and Thomas Almy, Esq. Dartmouth, Vice Presidents; Dea. Peter Thacher, Attleborough, Treasurer; Horatio Leonard, Esq. Raynham, Recording Secretary; Hon. James L. Hodges, Taunton, Corresponding Secretary.

Committee on Agriculture.—Roland Howard, Esq. Easton; Lemuel May, Esq. Attleborough; Mr. Enos Williams, Raynham; Capt. Sheffil Weaver, Troy; Mr. Jesse Smith, Taunton.

Committee on Domestic Animals.—George W. Peck, Esq. Rehoboth; Mr. George W. Walker, Seekonk; Mr. Pardon Cornell, Dartmouth; Mr. Dan Wilmarth, Taunton; Mr, William Read, Somerset.

Committee on Domestic Manufactures.—Joseph E. Read, Esq. Troy; Nath'l Wheeler, Esq. Wellington; Solomon Pratt, Esq. Mansfield; Abiathar Richardson, Esq. Attleborough; Mr. Henry Washburn, Taunton.

Committee of Publication.—Hon. Francis Baylies, Hon. James L. Hodges, David G. W. Cobb, Esq. all of Taunton.

From the Boston Commercial Gazette.

CIRCULAR.

SIR.—On the 19th of October last (the second day of the annual Fair in this vicinity) a meeting was held of the Manufacturers of Woollens in Massachusetts, to consider the subject of petitioning Congress to increase the duties on woollens. At this meeting, Hon. JESSE PUTNAM presided, and Mr. J. B. Brown was Secretary. The subject was discussed, and a vote passed, that it was the opinion of the meeting that an application ought to be made to the national legislature, to revise the Tariff, and to increase the duties on foreign woollen goods. A commit-

tee of five persons was thereupon chosen to report a petition. In the course of the evening a petition was reported, read, discussed, and accepted by an unanimous vote. This petition, signed by the Chairman, and attested by the Secretary, will be forwarded to Congress by one of the representatives of this state. At the same meeting, a Committee was appointed to correspond with manufacturers in different parts of the Union, in order to induce their co-operation in a measure deemed so highly important to them and to the general interests of the country. In pursuance of this vote, the Committee beg leave to present to you their views of the subject.

The Manufacturers of this state disclaim all pretensions to exclusive privileges, and desire only a reasonable participation in the prosperity of their fellow-citizens. They would advance claims no farther than they are in harmony with the *general* welfare, and tend to promote the present and future well being of the country. The idle clamor of interested persons may continue, but the unfounded jealousies of other great interests have, it is believed, abated, and the true sentiment of the indentity of the agricultural and manufacturing classes, generally prevails. The depressed condition of the woollen manufactories of this country, at the present time, is well known. Several have been compelled to suspend or change their operations; others are apprehensive of a similar fate; and all are pursuaded that a moderate increase of impost on foreign manufactures of wool, will revive and sustain their establishments. While petitioning for such relief, it is our bounden duty to show the necessity and reasonableness of our request.

The following axioms may be considered as established by the concurrent voice of a large majority of the citizens of this country:—The people, possessing, by the bounty of heaven, adequate capital, necessary materials, and requisite skill, are destined to become a manufacturing, as well as a commercial and agricultural nation; employment in this occupation is congenial with the morals, health, intelligence and accumulation of property, of the citizens; the rate of Duties on foreign merchandises should be increased in proportion to the growing ability of this country to supply its internal consumption; a Tariff should be framed to protect manufacturers, as well as to provide for a revenue; existing manufacturing establishments are to be sustained to render us independent of foreign nations, and they can be protected only by government.

Protection, then is all manufacturers ask; and we believe a moderate increase of duties adequate to this purpose, without prohibiting the importation of woollen goods. We concede that duties amounting to a prohibition would be unnecessary and unsafe. A sudden and unnatural increase of manufactories would ensue; a great bounty would thus be given to this branch of national industry, eventually detrimental to the recipients of it, and the demands of the country could not be immediately supplied by them. If placed upon equal footing with foreign competitors, we doubt not the enlightened people of this country will give a preference to the fabrics of their own countrymen.

Owing to various causes, we are unable to cope with foreign nations in supplying our market with woollen goods. Their machinery is more perfect, the wages of labor are less, and wool is more abundant and is cheaper. British cloths are selling at a profit, while American cloths yield little, if any, to the manufacturer. It is the policy and intention of foreign governments further to cripple, and if practicable, to paralize the manufacturing establishments of this country. Their eminent Statesmen have openly and strenuously recommended making great sacrifices to attain this object. *It is now contemplated, in England, to allow a drawback on manufactures of foreign wool, which will be equivalent to twelve and a half per centum on coarse fabrics.*

Raising the duties on foreign woollen goods will tend to increase the growth of wool in this country. An early adoption of this salutary measure would have *prevented* the destruction of valuable sheep. Efficient interposition, at this time, by Congress, will stimulate the agricultural interest to improve and increase their flocks, in which this nation is greatly deficient. While in England the native wool composes a large share of the quantity manufactured, the United States depends upon a foreign country for a great proportion of its supply.

We contend that an increase of duties will not be injurious to the great body of the people by manufacturers exacting exorbitant prices for their goods. We believe the permanent interests of all classes of the community are promoted by such moderate gains as will insure industry, prudence and perseverance, and are fully convinced that "the internal competition which takes place soon does away every thing like monopoly, and reduces by degrees the price to the minimum of a reasonable profit on the capital employed." The experience of this country establishes the truth of this position. Notwithstanding the Tariff of 1816 imposed prohibitory duties on low cottons, they are now sold at half their former prices, considering the relative value of the fabrics; and it is not doubted but the fostering care of government over manufactories of woollens would tend to improve their quality, while it would eventually reduce their price. Government has incurred an obligation to cherish the manufacturing interests of the country, as during the late war, when great inconvenience was experienced by want of necessary supplies of clothing for the army, strong inducements were held out to their constituents to render the nation independent of foreign countries for clothing.—Extensive and numerous establishments were made, in the confident expectation that they would not be suffered to languish for want of the continued protection of government.

We contend, also, that the increase of duties will not impair the *revenue* of the U. States.—It was predicted by the opposers of the prohibitory Tariff of 1816, that the importations of India cottons, would lessen the resources of the Treasury to an alarming amount. These predictions have not been fulfilled. The increase of our population, the artificial wants of the inhabitants, and the greater ability to purchase, will, it is presumed, ever continue a demand for the fabrics of other nations; the wise governments of the old world will lend their powerful aid, as hitherto, in enabling their subjects to rival the youthful establishments of this country; and it cannot be denied that "the interests of the revenue are promoted by whatever promotes an increase of national industry and wealth."

In the petition referred to we have requested an addition of *twelve and a half per cent*, on all manufactures of foreign wool, together with a further countervailing duty, should the contemplated drawback on British manufactures be granted by the government of that country, or any increase of impost be deemed expedient on the importations of wool into the United States.

We have thus expressed, at length, our ideas on this important subject, and the co-operation of Manufacturers, in bringing the subject before Congress, and presenting it in a candid light to the consideration of our fellow citizens engaged in other pursuits, is earnestly recommended.

I have the honor to be, respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
JOSHUA CLAPP.
Chairman of Committee of Correspondence.

Ladies' Apparel.—Last evening we had the pleasure of examining some of the most beautiful specimens of the industry and taste of our fair countrywomen that we have ever seen.—Two bonnets and two vandykes, one of each wrought by Mrs. Keyes, and the others by Miss Collar, both of Sangerfield, Oneida county, were sent to our office for inspection, and for exhibition and sale at the Mount Vernon Fair. They are made of the finest *down* of the *milk weed*, in fashionable form, lined with white silk, and are as rich flowing and elegant as if composed of floss silk. We have no doubt they will attract the particular attention of the ladies, and we shall be disappointed if there is not considerable competition among patriotic husbands in bidding at the auction for these beautiful articles of dress for their wives, as well as by way of rewarding the ladies who have wrought them with so much skill, and sent them hither in the hope of fair compensation and encouragement to renewed efforts. The Fair in this county is considered the most important in the state, and the show of manufactures, particularly household productions, is the best and most various, with the exception, perhaps, of Brighton Fair, of any in this country. We hope the sale of the articles exhibited will stimulate to further improvement. [*N. Y. Statesman.*

A little girl who was matched to walk 30 miles in eight hours and a half, accomplished her task on monday week, in a quarter of a mile circle, on Pennenden Heath. She performed the distance, with apparent ease in 7 hours 57 minutes having 33 minutes to spare. The weather was particularly unfavorable for her, it raining heavily a great part of the time. Her name is Emma Matilda Freeman; she resides at Strond, and is scarcely eight years of age.

Eng. Paper.

Beet.—A correspondent in Belchertown, informs us that Mr. John Robbins of that town, made him a present, the last spring of a blood beet, which he raised the year before, and which weighed 25 pounds 8 oz. He says—"Let Middlefield gardens try again." —*Hamp. Gaz.*

Coal discovered.—The Lehigh Company of Philadelphia has discovered a large body of *Coal* within a mile and an half of the river;—the coal now brought to market has to be transported nine miles by land.

From the London Horticultural Transactions.

On the Native Country of the Wild Potatoe, with an account of its Culture in the Garden of the Horticultural Society; and Observations on the Importance of obtaining improved Varieties of the Cultivated Plant. By Joseph Sabine, Esq. F. R. S. &c.

The possession of the plants of the *Native Wild Potatoe*, has been long a desideratum, and from the great importance and extensive use of the cultivated root, the subject of course became an object of attention to the Horticultural Society. In my communications with the Society's correspondents on the other side of the Atlantic, this was pointed out as one of the most interesting objects to which their attention could be directed; and it is with no small satisfaction that I am able to state that our inquiries have been successful.

Great doubts have existed as to what parts of the new world the natural habitat of the Solanum tuberosum or Potatoe should be assigned; and the question is even now a matter of discussion among Botanists of the greatest eminence. The vegetable, in its cultivated state, was first known in this country as the Potatoe of Virginia; I conceive, however, there can be little doubt that the plants which Sir Walter Raleigh found in that colony, and transferred to Ireland, had been previously introduced there from some of the Spanish territories, in the more southern parts of that quarter of the globe; for had the potatoe been a native of any district, now forming part of the United States, it would before this time have been found and recognised by the botanical collectors who have traversed and examined those countries.

From the Baron de Humboldt's observations on the potatoe in Mexico, it seems certain that it is not wild in the southwestern part of North America; nor is it known otherwise than as a garden plant in any of the West India islands.—Its existence, therefore, remains to be fixed in South America, and it seems now satisfactorily proved, that it is to be found both in elevated places in the tropical regions, and in the more temperate districts on the western coasts of the southern part of that division of the new world.

According to Molina, it grows wild abundantly in the fields of Chili, and in its natural state is called by the natives *Maglia*, producing, when uncultivated, small and bitter tubers. The Baron de Humboldt asserts, that it is not indigenous in Peru, nor in any part of the Cordilleras situated under the tropics. But this statement is contradicted by M. Lambert, on the authority of Don Francisco Zea; the former of whom says, that he and his companions Dombey and Ruiz, had not only gathered the Solanum tuberosum wild in Chili, but also in Peru, in the environs of Lima; and the latter has assured Mr. Lambert, that he had found it growing in the forests near Santa Fe de Bogota. The above account of Pavon is further confirmed by the evidence of a specimen gathered by him in Peru, and now forming a part of the herbarium of Mr. Lambert, with the name of "Patatas del Peru."

Mr. Lambert, in his communications to the *Journal of Science and the Arts*, supposes that the wild potatoe is to be found in the eastern, as well as the western and northern sides of South America. His opinion on this point appears to have been founded on the following circumstances:

Among the specimens in the Herbarium formed by Commerson, when he accompanied Bouganville in his voyage round the world, is one of a Solanum, gathered near Monte Video. In the *Supplement to the Encyclopedie*, this specimen was described, on the authority of M. Dunal, of Montpelier, as belonging to a species distinct from Solanum tuberosum, under the name of Solanum Commersonii, and it was subsequently published by M. Dunal, with the same name in the *Supplement* to his *Solonarum Synopsis*. Mr. Lambert, however, conjectured this specimen to be that of the type of the cultivated potatoe, and was induced to do so by information received from Mr. Baldwin, an American botanist, that he had found the Solanum tuberosum wild, both at Monte, and in the vicinity of Maldonado, as well as from Captain Bowles, who had resided a considerable time at Buenos Ayres, and who had told him that this plant was a common weed in the gardens and neighborhood of Monte Video.

The above statements certainly confirm the existence of a plant in sufficient abundance near the shores of the Rio de la Plata, which Mr. Lambert identifies with Commerson's specimen; but the proof that it is the Solanum tuberosum, in opposition to the decision of M. Dunal, rests only on the opinion of Dr. Baldwin, and Capt. Bowles, without the usual satisfactory evidence of specimens, which have not been supplied by either of these gentlemen.

In order to elucidate the question as much as possible, I applied to M. Desfontaines, Director of the Museum of Natural History in the Jardin du Roi at Paris, for permission to have a drawing made of Commerson's original specimen, which was deposited in the Herbarium under his charge. With a liberality and kindness which I cannot too highly compliment, the entire specimen was, without delay transmitted to me. It has much the appearance of being in a dwarf or stunted state. The label affixed to it is thus described: "Hispanis Tomates—flores sunt palliduli—de la plage du pied du morne de Monte Video en Mai, 1797." The size of the blossom is evidently larger than that of the S. tuberosum, under similar circumstances; the depths of the divisions of the flowers, and the large proportional size of the terminal leaf, present striking differences from correspondent parts of the common potatoe. Very little hairiness is perceptible on the specimen, which if it had been taken from a plant of S. tuberosom, would probably have been much more hairy, as it usually is when stunted. It is also somewhat singular that Commerson, who could not but know the S. tuberosum and its various names, should have affixed that of "Tomates" to his specimen; this makes it almost certain that he did not consider it to be the potatoe. On these grounds I have ventured to hesitate in concuring in the opinion of M. Lambert, that we have sufficient evidence of the growth of the wild potatoe in the neighborhood of the Rio de La Plata. It possibly may be found there, but its existence in that part of America is not proved, since it seems tolerably certain that Commerson's plant is not it, and M. Lambert does not suppose that the plants seen by his correspondent and friend were different from Commerson's.

Early in the spring of the present year Mr. Caldcleugh, who had been some time resident at Rio Janeiro, in the situation of secretary to the British Minister at that Court, where he had been indefatigable in his exertions to forward the objects of the Horticultural Society, returned to England, having previously taken a journey across the country, and visited the principal places on the western coast of South America. Among many articles of curiosity which he brought with him, were two tubers of the wild potatoe, which he sent to me with the following letter:

Montague Place, Portman Square, February 24, 1823.

My Dear Sir—It is with no small degree of pleasure that I am enabled to send you some specimens of the Solanum tuberosum, or Native Wild Potatoe of South America.

It is found growing in considerable quantities in ravines in the immediate neighborhood of Valparaiso on the western side of South America, in lat. 34, 30, S. The leaves and flowers of the plant are similar in every respect to those cultivated in England, and elsewhere. It begins to flower in the month of October, the spring of that climate, and is not very prolific. The roots are small and of a bitterish taste, some with red and others with yellowish skins. I am inclined to think that the plant grows on a large extent of the coast, for in the south of Chili it is found and called by the natives *Maglia*, but I cannot discover that it is employed to any purpose.

I am indebted for these specimens to an officer of His Majesty's ship Owen Glendower, who left the country some time after me.

ALEXANDER CALDCLEUGH.

The two tubers were exhibited to the Society, and a drawing made of them before they were planted. Had there been a third, I should have been tempted to have satisfied myself as to the real flavor, which Mr. Caldcleugh, as well as Molina, describes as bitter. They were planted separately in small pots, and speedily vegetated; and grew rapidly, and were subsequently turned out into a border about two feet distance from each other, when they became very strong and luxuriant. The blossoms at first were but sparingly produced, but as the plants were earthed up they increased in vigor, and then bore flowers abundantly; but these were not succeeded by fruit. The flower was white, and differed in no respect from those varieties of the common potatoe which have white blossoms. The leaves were compared with several varieties of the cultivated potatoe, which generally were rather of a more rugose & uneven surface above, and with the veins stronger and more conspicuous below, but in other respects there was no difference between them. The pinnulæ which grew on the sides of the petiole, between the pinnæ of the leaves, were few, not near so numerous as in some varieties of the cultivated potatoe; but in specimens of other varieties that were examined, their leaves were destitute of pinnulæ, so that the existence of these appendages does not appear to be so essential a characteristic as has been supposed, and as it is stated in the *Supplement to the Encyclopedie*.

The earth with which the plants had been moulded up had been applied in considerable quantity, so as to form a ridge, the sides of

which were full two feet high; and about the month of August, runners from the roots and joints of the covered stems protruded themselves towards the surface of the ridge in great numbers, and when they reached the light, formed considerable stems, bearing leaves and blossoms, so that at length the two plants became one mass of many apparently different plants issuing from all sides of the ridge. The appearance of these runners in such quantities induced a doubt as to the identity of the plant with our common potatoe, which doubt was increased when it was ascertained, that so late as the month of August no tubers had been formed by the roots. The runners were, however, no otherwise different from what are formed by the cultivated potatoe under ground, except that they were more vigorous, as well as more numerous.

The plants have recently been taken up, and all doubt respecting them is now removed; they are undoubtedly the Solanum tuberosum. The principal stems when extended, measured more than seven feet in length; the produce was most abundant, above six hundred tubers were gathered from two plants; they are of various sizes, a few as large, or larger than a pigeon's egg, others as small as the original ones, rather angular, but more globular than oblong; some are white, others marked with blotches of pale red or white. The flavor of them when boiled, was exactly that of a young potatoe.

The compost used in moulding up the plants, was very much saturated with manure, and to this circumstance I attribute the excessive luxuriance of the growth of the stems; had common garden mould been employed, they would not have probably grown so strong, and I suppose that while the plants were thus rapidly making stems and leaves, the formation of the tubers was delayed, for the production of these has been work of the latter part of the season; they cannot be called fully ripe, nor have they attained the size which they probably might have done if they had been formed earlier.

They will, however, answer perfectly for the purpose of reproduction (or seed, as it is technically called,) and they are in sufficient plenty to be subjected to treatment similar to a common crop of potatoe. The result of another year's experience is necessary to enable us fully to observe on the merits and value of this new introduction; but the following changes already appear to have attended its subjection to cultivation;—the produce is most abundant, the tubers have lost all the bitterness of flavor which is attributed to them in the natural state, and their size is increased remarkably; from all which circumstances I am disposed to infer, that the original cultivators of this vegetable did not exercise either much art or patience in the production of their garden potatoes.

The increased growth of the potatoe, not only in these kingdoms, but in almost every civilized part of the globe, has so added to its importance, that any information respecting it has become valuable; the subject of this communication may therefore not be without interest. With the exception of wheat and rice, it is now certainly the vegetable most employed as the food of man; and it is probable that the period is at no great distance, when its extensive use will even place it before those which have hitherto been considered the chief staples of life. The effect of the unlimited extent to which its cultivation may be carried, on the human race, must be a subject of deep interest to the political economist. The extension of population will be as unbounded as the production of food, which is capable of being produced in very small space, and with great facility; and the increased number of inhabitants of the earth will necessarily induce changes, not only in the political systems, but in all the artificial relations of civilized life. How far such changes may conduce to, or increase the happiness of mankind, is very problematical; more especially when it is considered, that since the potatoe, when in cultivation, is very liable to injury from casualties of season, and that it is not at present known how to keep it in store for use beyond a few months, a general failure of the year's crop, whenever it shall have become the chief or sole support of a country, must inevitably lead to all the misery of famine, more dreadful in proportion to the numbers exposed to its ravages.

Under such circumstances, and with such a prospect, it is surely a paramount duty of those who have the means and power of attending to the subject, to exert themselves in selecting and obtaining varieties of potatoes, not only with superior qualities in flavor and productiveness, but which shall be less subject to injury by changes of weather when in growth, and which may possess the quality of keeping for a length of time, either in their natural state, or under the operation of artificial treatment. This is one of the objects to which the care and energies of the Horticultural Society ought to be directed. Under its auspices, and by its means, some new kinds have been brought into notice, but a wide field of exertion is still before it.—With the potatoes cultivated in South America at the present time, we are very little acquainted; there is one especially which has been heard of, but which has not yet reached us, known at Lima as the yellow or golden potatoe, and which is reported to be far superior in flavor to any now grown in Europe.

On the subject of the potatoe there is also a point of much curiosity and much interest open to those who have leisure and opportunity of conducting the investigation. Several accounts of its introduction into Europe, and especially into Great Britain and Ireland, are before the public, differing from each other, and none exactly correct; the entire truth is probably to be extracted from the whole, and ought to be supported by references to the original authorities for the different facts. To these in order to render the history of the potatoe complete, an account of its original discovery, and the observations made on it by the first and early visitors to the shores of South America, should be obtained; and this research would probably lead to a detection of the circumstances attending its first introduction into Virginia, which is at present involved in obscurity.

ON THE GROWTH OF EARLY POTATOES.

BY E. H. DERBY.

Observing the produce of a few potatoes, which I transplanted the last year, to be very good, I was induced this season to try the experiment upon a somewhat larger scale. About the first of April I took some late white potatoes after cutting them placed them in a hot bed, as close as they could lay, and covered them with earth. On the 24th of April, the plants being in fine order, some of them twelve inches high, I took them up and separating all the shoots but one from the parent potatoe, I made drills about three feet apart with a hoe, and filling the same with well digested manure; I transplanted as I should cabbage plants, the whole of the shoots about nine inches apart in the drills. On the 3d of May there was a very sharp frost, which injured the tops of the plants very considerably; they in a few days recovered and grew very rapidly, scarcely one of them failing. The rows were twice hoed. On the 30th of June I commenced using new potatoes, the size large, and very fine, equal to any taken up in October: finished digging them on the 10th of August; the land measured 90 by 52 links of the chain, on which stood one pear and plum tree, and produced at the rate of 293¾ bushels per acre. The rows might have been much nearer, consequently the produce would have been greater. I could not perceive any difference in the yielding of the plants, between those which were separated, and the ones which adhered to the potatoe. Should I try the experiment again, I should take all the plants from the potatoe, and replant it as it appeared as fresh and sound as the day it was first put into the ground.

Vides, ut ulta stet nive candidum
Soracte! nec jam sustineant onus
Sylvæ laborantes.

Look! how white with snow stands mount *Ida;* and how the groves labor with the burden.

Remarkable weather.—The snow began to descend in broad, moist flakes, on Saturday morning, at about 8 o'clock, and continued its thick, fast and feathery fall, till about sun-set. About 12 o'clock it was heard to thunder, and again about 2. Notwithstanding a great part of the snow melted as it fell, it had covered the ground at night to the depth of at least four inches. It threw on the leaves and branches of the tall, slim poplars in our streets, so heavy a load as in a considerable degree to strip them of their honors; and in the afternoon there was scarcely a moment in which you could not hear the groan of some of those vegetable dandies, as they were divested, one after another, of their trim attire. The moral of the scene was impressive; and the day was calculated to inspire a sheltered and ruminating man, with a musing and quiet awe. The maples, the elms and chesnuts sustained the weight of the falling heavens without injury, for their branches had sprung from a good stock; their growth had been slow and solid, and their strength, in the hour of need did not fail. But the precocious and exotic poplars, brought from the warmer regions of the south, graceful, but frail, could not bear the brunt of our northern skies, and yielding the gay vesture to the storm, lost all when they lost their beauty.

Thus may we find 'tongues in the trees;' and if our young men and maidens will listen to what those tongues teach, they will form for themselves characters that will sustain them in adversity and command respect in prosperity; the social affections, like singing birds, shall make nests in their branches, and the solid trunk of good principles shall sustain their honors.

[*Troy Sentinel, Oct. 28.*

For the following, together with some other valuable receipts and a "History of the Potatoe" we are indebted to "A Subscriber," who will please to accept our thanks for his valuable communications.

TO PRESERVE FRUIT WITHOUT SUGAR.

Reported to the Society of Arts, (England) by Thomas Saddington.

Take gooseberry bottles, or the widest necked, common porter bottles; clean them; have the fruit picked but let it not be too ripe. Fill them as full as they will hold, to admit the cork to be put in; frequently shaking the fruit while filling. When done, fit the corks to each bottle, and sticking them in so lightly that they may be easily taken out when the fruit is scalded, which may be done either in a kettle, copper or sauce pan over the fire; first putting a coarse cloth at the bottom, to prevent the heat of the fire from cracking the bottles. Then fill the copper, or kettle with cold water sufficiently high for the bottles to be nearly up to the top in it. Put them in sideways to expel the air from the cavity under the bottom of the bottles. Take care that the bottles do not touch the bottom, or sides of the vessel which will endanger their bursting. Increase the heat, gradually 160° or 170° by a brewing thermometer, which will require about three fourths of an hour. If a thermometer cannot be had, the heat may be judged by the finger—the water being very hot, but not so as to scald it. If too hot add a little cold water, or slack the fire. When at this degree of heat, it may be kept so for half an hour longer, which will at all times be quite enough, as a longer time, or a greater heat will crack the fruit. During the time that bottles are increasing in heat, a tea-kettle full of water must be got ready to boil as soon as the fruit is done. If one fire only is used, the kettle containing the bottles must be *half* removed from the fire as soon as it attains the proper heat, so as to make room for boiling the water in the tea-kettle. As soon as the fruit is properly scalded, and the water boiling, take the bottles out of the water, one at a time and fill them within an inch of the cork, with the boiling water out of the tea-kettle. Cork them down immediately, doing it gently, but very tight, by *squeezing* the cork in, but you must not shake them by *driving* the cork, as that will endanger bursting the bottles, with the hot water. When corked, lay them on their sides, as this keeps the cork swelled, and prevents the air from escaping. Let them lie till cold, and then remove them to any convenient place of keeping, always laying them on the side till used. For the first month or two turn the bottles a little round, once or twice a week, to preserve the fermentation which will raise a scum on the fruit, from forming a crust, by which attention the fruit will be kept moist with the water and no mould will ever take place. It will be proper to turn the bottles a little round once or twice a month afterwards. The wide mouthed bottles will be best for convenience of getting fruit out for use. When used the first liquor poured off answers for pies, tarts, puddings, &c. in place of water as it is strongly impregnated with the virtues of the fruit. The last poured off, boiled up with sugar, makes a very rich and agreeable syrup.

Twenty four bottles were sent to the Society containing Apricots, Gooseberries, Currants, Raspberries, Cherries, Plums, Orleans Plums, Egg-Plums, Damsons, Siberian Crabbs, and Green Gages. Apples and Pears may be done for shipping, &c. The Society voted a premium of five guineas for the communication. If heat greater—say 190 degrees is used, the fruit is reduced nearly to a pulp.

Ninety bottles of fruit thus preserved, cost the preserver, in London, £1, 9, 5½; in the summer; and in the winter, making allowance for breakage and other accidents, would sell at a profit of nearly 200 per cent.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1823.

Extracts from a work lately published by WILLIAM COBBETT, entitled "*Cottage Economy*," with occasional remarks on some of the statements of the author.

[*Continued from page* 62.]

The following directions from Mr. Cobbett's work, above mentioned, relative to the choice of *Malt* and *Hops* may be of use.

"Malt varies very much in quality, indeed it must with the quality of the barley. When good, it is full of flour, and in biting a grain asunder, you find it bite easily, and see the *shell thin* and filled up well with flour. If it bite *hard* and *steely* the malt is bad. There is *pale* malt and *brown* malt; but the difference in the two arises merely from the different degrees of heat employed in their drying. The main thing to attend to is the *quantity of flour*. If the barley was bad, *thin* or *steely*, whether from unripeness or blight, or any other cause, it will not *malt* so well; that is to say, it will not send out its roots in due time, and a part of it will still be barley."

In order to ascertain whether the barley has been well malted, Mr. Cobbett directs to "take a handful of the *unground* malt, and put it into cold water. Mix it about with the water a little; that is let every grain be *wet all over*; and whatever part of them sink are not *good*. If you have your malt ground there is not that I know of, any means of detection.

"If the barley be all *well malted* there is still a variety in the quality of the malt; that is to say, a bushel of malt from fine, plump, heavy barley, will be better than the same quantity from thin and light barley. In this case, as in the case of wheat, the *weight* is the criterion of the quality. Only bear in mind that as a bushel of wheat, weighing *sixty-two* pounds, is better worth *six* shillings than a bushel weighing *fifty-two* is worth *four* shillings, so a bushel of malt weighing *forty five* pounds is better worth *nine* shillings, than a bushel weighing *thirty-five* is worth *six* shillings. In malt therefore as in every thing else, the word *cheap* is a deception, unless the quality be taken into view.

"There are two things to be observed in hops: the *power of preserving beer*, and that of giving it a *pleasant flavor*. Hops may be *strong*, and yet not *good*.—They should be *bright*, have no *leaves* or bits of branches amongst them. The hop is the *husk*, or *seed pod*, of the hop-vine, as the *cone* is that of the fir-tree; and the *seeds* themselves are deposited, like those of the fir, round a little soft stalk, enveloped by the several folds of this pod, or cone. If, in the gathering, leaves of the vine or bits of the branches, are mixed with the hops, these not only help to make up the *weight*, but they give a *bad taste* to the beer; and, indeed, if they abound much, they spoil the beer. Great attention is, therefore, necessary in this respect. There are, too, numerous *sorts* of hops, varying in size, form, and quality, quite as much as *apples*. However, whenever they are in a state to be used in brewing, the marks of goodness are, an absence of *brown color*, (for that indicates *perished* hops;) a color *between green and yellow*; a great *quantity of the yellow farina*; seeds *not too large or hard*; a *clammy feel* when rubbed between the fingers; and a *lively* pleasant smell. As to the *age* of hops, they retain for twenty years, probably, their *power of preserving beer*; but not of giving it a pleasant flavor. I have used them at *ten years old*, and should have no fear of using them at twenty. They lose none of their *bitterness*; none of their power of preserving beer; but, they lose the other quality; and, therefore, in the making of fine ale or beer, new hops are to be preferred. As to the *quantity* of hops, it is clear, from what has been said, that that must, in some degree, depend upon their *quality*; but, supposing them to be good in quality, a pound of hops to a bushel of malt is about the quantity. A good deal, however, depends upon the length of time the beer is intended to be kept, and upon the season of the year in which it is brewed. Beer intended to be kept a long while should have the full pound, also beer brewed in warmer weather, though for present use. Half the quantity may do under an opposite state of circumstances.

"The *Water* should be *soft* by all means. That of brooks, or rivers, is best. That of a *pond*, fed by a rivulet, or spring, will do very well. *Rain-Water*, if just fallen, may do; but stale rain-water, or stagnant pond-water, makes the beer *flat* and difficult to keep; and *hard* water, from wells, is very bad: it does not get the sweetness out of the malt nor the bitterness out of the hops, like soft water; and the wort of it does not ferment well, which is a certain proof of its unfitness for the purpose."

A Superlative Turnip.—Ebenezer Hobbs, Esq. of Weston, Mass. has raised this year, a turnip which weighs *eleven pounds and a half* without the top. This is somewhat superior to the Worcester and Leicester turnips, and deserves of course a higher standing among the vegetable prodigies of this prolific season.

FOREIGN.

By late arrivals, Liverpool papers have been received to the 27th September.

The Citadel and town of Pampeluna have surrendered to the French, and the garrison sent into France. A disease had broken out among the French troops at St. Sebastian.—Marshall Lauriston had marched with 12,000 men to reinforce Moncey's corps in Lower Catalonia.—The prisoners taken at the Trocaderos amount to 1100 men, who have been sent to Xeres.—A private letter from Madrid of Sept. 17th, says in a postscript the corps of Riego had been completely routed by the French.—Preparations continued to be made for the siege of Cadiz.—A letter from Valencia dated the 6th September, states that a victory had been obtained by Milans over the French army, consisting of 10,000 men, commanded by Moncey in person. The engagement took place on the 28th of August, at Antafulla, some leagues N. E. of Tarragona. It was maintained with extraordinary obstinacy on both sides, and was determined by a decisive attack with the bayonet along the whole line on the part of the Spanish infantry, who broke the enemy and drove them off the field; the cavalry of Milans pursuing them for several miles and in various directions. Milans makes the French loss amount to near 1,700 men, of whom 170 were prisoners; that of the Spaniards to something more than 600. An article, dated Madrid, Sept. 9th says, "official advices from St. Mary's announce that the Deputy Don Miguel Alava, arrived there the 4th inst. with a flag of truce, bearing a letter from the king of Spain to the Duke D'Angouleme, and it was asserted that the Duke will agree to no other condition but the entire liberation of the king"—Cadiz letters assert that the capture of the Trocadero had entirely changed the face of affairs there; and that there were continual quarrels between the militia and troops of the line.

The Boston Centinel of the 5th inst. asserts that "a negociation for a cessation of hostilities appeared to be certainly in train at Cadiz and vicinity. Information of it had been dispatched by the British Minister A'Court from Gibraltar. It had received the immediate attention of the British Ministry, and the answer thereto had been despatched by Mr. Canning, by a King's messenger, and an officer; and a sloop of war had been ordered to convey the answer of the British Court with all speed to Spain. The Courier of the 18th says, "the news is of great moment." The French Ministerial papers asserted positively that the Duke would not agree to any other basis than the restoration of the King to liberty, and the surrender of Cadiz to the royal Spaniards. This basis established, it is said the guarantee of England of other conditions would be admitted.

Still later from Europe.—The ship Montano, arrived at New-York from Havre, has brought Paris papers to the 24th of September. A Moniteur of the 23d contains an official letter announcing the capture of Gen. Riego, three leagues from Carolina. The French flotilla, stationed at the entrance of the River St. Peter, near Cadiz in the month of August, took, sunk or burnt 56 vessels of various sizes, most of them laden with flour, and other provisions for Cadiz.

Surrender of Cadiz.—The brig Mary and Eliza, Capt. Gray, left Gibraltar on the 4th ult., arrived at this port on the 6th inst. and informs that the city of Cadiz surrendered to the French forces on the 29th of September, and that the King and Royal Family, on the same day, passed over to the French Head Quarters at Port St. Mary.

DOMESTIC.

New-York Cattle Show and Fair, is highly spoken of but we have not yet received the details of this exhibition. The premiums, we learn were paid in silver plate and books as well as in money, and many ladies received them in person together with the acclamations of applause from the spectators. The first premium was for black broad cloth, which brought $10, 25 per yard; and the second $9, 75. A Gipsy Leghorn Imitation, by Miss Harrison was bought by Mr. John Leonard at $100; and another by Miss Babcock brought $65. The Hon. W. P. Van Ness presided at the dinner, among the guests were the Hon. De Witt Clinton, Mr. Allen, Minister to Chili, Col. Gibbs, &c.

Hampshire Cattle Show.—The annual Cattle Show, &c. of the Hampshire, Franklin, and Hamden Agricultural Society was held at Northampton, on the 22d and 23d of October. "The exhibition of Household Manufactures was far superior to that of any preceding year in the number, variety and excellence of the articles." "The Neat Stock was decidedly inferior to the exhibitions of former years." The Swine were good and evinced considerable improvement. The fine woolled sheep were not numerous, but some of them very superior."

"Of the Address of Mr. Bates," says the Hampshire Gazette, "we shall only express the sentiments of the numerous audience, by expressing our own admiration. It was a practical address,—appropriate to the interests represented on the occasion, and the truth and wisdom of his remarks and advice were well set off by the taste and fancy of the writer, and his graceful and impressive delivery. We understand the address will be published." The performances of Mr. Lucas, and his choir of singers, on the evening of the first day of the Cattle Show are spoken of in terms of approbation. We prepose to give further notice of this exhibition, when we have received the detailed and official accounts which are expected.

The Town of Eaton against the world, for corn and potatoes ! ! !—At the late Show and Fair, says the Madison county (N. Y.) Observer, Benjamin Bartlett produced "satisfactory proof," that he raised one hundred and seventy-four bushels of corn upon an acre of land, and also that he raised three hundred and five and a half bushels of Potatoes, upon one half acre of land, for which he received the first premiums. To the lovers of Johnycake, and to the sons of swate Ireland, this must be cheering news. Those who are unacquainted with the fertility of our soil may be disposed to doubt the above. But every doubt will be removed by referring to Mr. Bartlett, who is an experienced agriculturalist, and who will explain the process and the mode of culture by which these enormous crops were produced.—*American Mercury.*

Great Beet.—There was lately exhibited in Bridgetown, New Jersey, a beet raised by Samuel Seeley, Esq. of that place, which weighed *nineteen pounds.*—It is of the species called *beta vulgaris*, containing more saccharine matter than the Mangel Wurtzel, and much heavier in proportion to its size. Larger beets have been raised in New England, and there was one raised in Ohio, (of which notice was taken in our 1st vol. p. 144,) which we are told weighed *thirty pounds!* This truly prodigious beet was from the seed of *Buonaparte's Sugar Beet.*

Another Mammoth Turnip.—Mr. John Sargent of Leicester has this year raised an English Turnip, which weighed without the top, 8 lbs. 11 oz. and measures 22 inches in circumference, and 4 3-4 inches in thickness, although it has been some time exposed in a situation in which it would be likely to shrink.

It was raised in a cornfield in a part no richer than the common soil of the field, and had no particular care bestowed in its cultivation.—*Com. for the Mass. Spy.*

Singular Phenomenon.—On the 11th ult. about twelve miles from Madison, in Jefferson county, on the road to Verona, two explosions took place in quick succession, in the bottom of a branch near the house of Mr. Badgeley, which cracked the rock for a considerable length, and threw up a quantity of mineral, intermingled with white spar. It is yet unknown what kind of metal it is. The report was so loud that it was heard at the distance of four miles, and those living in the immediate vicinity were very much alarmed. This is a singular occurrence, and such an one as we do not recollect to have heard of before, unless accompanied by an earthquake. One of the editors has been on the ground since the explosion, and examined the creek and the mineral which was thrown up by the explosion. Some of the rocks that were broken appear to be very large sheets, and the effect produced upon them much greater in extent than would be produced by a blast from powder.—*Western (Ohio) Cent.*

Distressing Occurrence.—On the 11th of October the house of Mr. Augustus Todd of Bertil, County, N. C. was destroyed by fire and two of his children were burnt to death; the house having taken fire, by accident while the father and mother were absent at a neighbour's house. A negro man, who was at work, at some distance from the house, seeing the fire ran to save the house but arrived to late. The unfortunate father had three children, two of whom were in the yard at play when the fire broke out; but the eldest son on discovering the fire ran to the rescue of the child from the danger, and fell a victim to the flames.

Duelling.—The Grand Jury of Charleston, S. C. have presented duelling to the Legislature as one of the greatest crimes against the peace and welfare of society, and recommended that provision be made to disqualify the principals and seconds engaged in duels from holding places of honor and profit.

A Warning to Quacks.—One Dr. Miller, in the interior of New-York, has had Judgment rendered against him for $600 for mal-practice in undertaking to set the arm of a young woman, which had been dislocated at the elbow, and which had been rendered entirely useless by his negligence or ignorance.

A writer in the National Intelligencer, with the signature of "A Farmer," laments the destruction of timber in the best cultivated parts of the United States, and advises the planting forest trees, extensively, for fuel and lumber.

House of Industry.—The Agricultural experiments made at this Institution have succeeded beyond expectation. A lot from which a fine crop of hay was cut in July, has since produced several hundred bushels of excellent *turnips.*—We have seen some of them, which measured twenty two inches in circumference, fair, round, smooth, and finely flavored.—*Boston Centinel.*

Mammoth Calves.—A yearling calf, was exhibited at the Saratoga Cattle Show, which weighed 1325 lbs.; and a calf ten months old, which weighed 672 lbs. both raised by Mr. Gilbert Waring.

Early Snow.—On the 25th ult. snow fell in Cherry Valley, N. Y. to the depth of 12 inches or more. At Lansingburgh, in the same day, a violent snow storm accompanied with thunder and lightning, was experienced which left the snow a foot deep.

A very fine Grass Hat.—Miss Betsey Belcher, of Albany, at the late Agricultural Fair in that city, exhibited a grass hat, which was purchased by the President of the Society at auction at $50.

Capt. Joseph Edwards, an enterprising and industrious mechanic, of this town, lately removed the Asylum House in Carpenter-street, with the chimneys, furniture, and fixtures, over *thirty feet*, by means of a slide. The family were within, attending to their concerns, while the house was moving. We understand that neither the walls, nor the brick work in the chimneys, received the slightest injury by the process of removal. [*Salem Observer.*

To Correspondents.—We have received several communications from respected carrespondents, which shall meet with all possible attention; but some time must be allowed us to comply with their requests and intimations. We have a plan for an Ice House in the hands of the Engraver, which we hope to insert in our next. For the hint we are indebted to a correspondent who takes the letter "R." for his signature, and whose valuable communication respecting the best mode of clearing land from *pine stumps*, &c. shall soon be published.

The request of the gentlemen who wishes for a list of the most "approved agricultural works" shall be complied with as soon as we can command time sufficient to make some inquiries connected with the subject. We wish not only to give the required list, but to state *where the books may be obtained*; and this information we hope to furnish; but personal interviews with some of our friends who have agricultural books for sale will be necessary in order to make the article as complete as we hope to be able to render it.

PRICES OF COUNTRY PRODUCE, &c.

[Revised and corrected every Friday.]

		FROM D. C.	TO D. C.
ASHES, pot, 1st sort,	ton.	140	
pearl do.		137 50	140
BEANS, white,	bush	90	1 00
BEEF, mess, 200 lbs. new,	bbl.	8 00	8 50
cargo, No 1,		6 50	6 75
" No 2,		5 50	5 75
BUTTER, inspect. 1st qual. new	lb.	12	13
" 2d qual.		9	11
small kegs, family,		14	16
CHEESE, new milk		7	9
FLAX		8	9
FLAX SEED	bush	83	
FLOUR, Baltimore, Howard St.	bbl.	8	
Genessee,		7 75	8 00
Rye, best		3 75	
GRAIN, Rye	bush	60	
Corn		55	65
Barley		67	70
Oats		37	40
HOGS' LARD, 1st sort	lb.	10	11
HOPS, No 1, Inspection of 1823		22	25
LIME,	cask	1 00	1 12
OIL, Linseed, Phil. and Northern	gal.	60	70
PLAISTER PARIS	ton.	2 75	3 00
PORK, Navy Mess	bbl.	12 00	
Bone Middlings new,		14 50	15 00
Cargo, No 1,		12 00	
Cargo, No 2,		11 00	11 25
SEEDS, Herd's Grass, 1822,	bush	2 00	
Clover	lb.	7	8
WOOL, Merino, full blood, washed		58	70
do do unwashed		37	40
do 3-4 washed		42	45
do 1-2 do		35	37
Native do		32	35
Pulled, Lamb's, 1st sort		50	00
do Spinning, 1st sort		40	42
PROVISION MARKET.			
BEEF, best pieces	lb.	7	10
PORK, fresh		5	7
VEAL,		3	8
MUTTON and LAMB,		2	8
POULTRY,		8	12
BUTTER, keg & tub, family,		14	16
lump, best		20	22
EGGS,	doz.	16	18
MEAL, Rye,	bush	75	
Indian,		70	75
POTATOES,		30	37
CIDER, liquor, new	bbl.	2 00	2 50
HAY, best,	ton.	16 00	20 00

From the Providence Journal.

AGRICULTURAL ODE FOR THE YEAR 1823.

Awake your joyful minstrelsy:
But not the clamorous note of war,
To tell the deeds of chivalry,
For Independence done.
Nor yet recount, how soared the star
Of *Freedom*, o'er the ocean wave,
When, late, in combat met the brave,
And victory was won.

The warrior's trophy, stained and torn,
No pleasure can on us bestow;
'Tis purchased with the widow's moan,
The orphan's sigh of wo.
Awake the note of mirth and glee,
For bloodless triumphs, all our own;
Fit subject, these, for minstrelsy,
And pleasure's genial glow.

In hope we ploughed the stubborn soil:
In confidence the seed was sown:
The harvest blessed our patient toil,
And plenty crowns the year.
The Artists's trophies, too, are won:
The Loom its well wrought web unfolds,
To shield us from the searching colds
Of winter's blasts severe.

Our commerce sweeps, with swelling sails,
Fearless, o'er ocean's wide domain,
Borne onward by his favoring gales;
Nor tempts his storms in vain.
Returning from far distant shores,
With teeming wealth her honest gain,
Upon our happy lands she pours
The treasures of the Main.

These triumphs, *Industry*, are thine;
And long may Peace, protract thy reign:
Such blessings may we ne'er resign,
A name in war to gain.
The warrior's meed is *but* a name:
Glory's an empty phantasy:
Her brightest hallow is a flame
Of splendid misery.

MISCELLANY.

Iron Mountain in Missouri.—This place is in Washington County in this State, and is the most extraordinary store that has yet been discovered in any country. It would not probably be transcending the limits of truth to say, that it would supply the world with this useful mineral for a long period of time. In appearance it bears a strong resemblance to native iron, and would yield, on fusion, 80 or perhaps 90 per cent.

There are other places that have been denominated *iron mountains*, such as that of Traberg in Poland, and two, the names of which we do not recollect that have been discovered in Lapland; but none of these can be compared with the mountains of Missouri, neither in point of magnitude, nor in quality of ore.

It is a matter of astonishment that no foundry has yet been established convenient to this place; in its neighborhood are many valuable mills, and there is evidently no want of water power for the application of machinery, even of the largest construction. As there are few individuals who could command the capital necessary to be employed in this business, it would perhaps, require a company to carry into effectual execution, an enterprise of so much importance, and which could not fail in being amply productive. Of the success that would attend it there cannot exist a doubt, and it is thought, by many intelligent persons, that iron, castings, &c. might be exported advantageously even to places where they are now manufactured.

The peculiar quality of the ore of which this section of country is the rich depository, is also worthy of attention. At a *Bloomery*, erected by Messrs. Perry and Ruggles, iron is produced of a quality greatly superior to any that can be imported, and is preferred by smiths, because it is worked with greater facility, and is found to possess, in a very high degree, the properties of steel. Axes, plough-irons, and other implements of husbandry, made of this iron, without any addition of steel, is found nearly equal to those formed in the ordinary way.

The *iron mountain* is frequently visited by the curious traveller, and by those who have contemplated drawing on its vast store of wealth; and at length it is stated, a foundry and other works, calculated to bring into operation the mineral resources of this district, are about to be erected. We do not vouch for the truth of this statement, but a better prospect for the investment of capital is but seldom presented, and there can be no doubt, that, if not immediately it will soon, be embraced.—*St. Louis Inquirer.*

Lieut. Kotzebue has discovered in the western part of the gulf to the north of Beering's Streights a mountain covered with verdure (moss and grass) composed entirely of solid ice. On arriving at a place where the shore rises perpendicularly from the sea to the heighth of 1000 feet, and continues afterward to extend with a gradual inclination, they observed masses of the purest ice 100 feet high, preserved under the above vegetable carpet.—The portion exposed to the sun was melting, and sending much water into the sea. An undoubted proof of the ice being primitive (i. e. not formed by any causes now in action) was afforded by the great number of bones and teeth of the mammoths which make their appearance when it is melted. The soil of these mountains which, to a certain height, are covered with abundant herbage, is only half a foot thick; it is composed of a mixture of clay, earth, sand, and mould: the ice melts gradually beneath it, the carpet falls downward, and continues to thrive.—The latitude is 60 deg. 15 min. 36 sec. N.

Belzoni, the Traveller.—This enterprising traveller is now on an exploratory journey in northern Africa. A letter has been received from him, dated Féz. He had had the honor of being presented to the Emperor of Morocco, and obtained his Majesty's permission to join the caravan, which would set out for Timbucto in one month after the date of the letter. "If nothing," writes this enterprising man, if "nothing should happen, and if promises are kept, I shall from this place cross the mountains of Atlas to Tallet, where we shall join other parties from various quarters, and from thence, with the help of God, we shall enter the Great Sabara to Timbucto. Should I succeed in my attempt, I shall add another *votive tablet*, to the temple of Fortune; and if, on the contrary, my project should fail, one more name will be added to the many others which have fallen into the river of oblivion." We understand that his design is first to reach Timbucto, and from thence continue his route through the heart of Africa to Sennaar. He will then pass through Nubia, arrive once more in the land of Egypt, the scene of his memorable discoveries.

A Poet's Disinterestedness.—Mr. Pope never flattered any body for his money in the course of his writings. Alderman Barber had a great inclination to have a stroke in his commendation inserted in some part of Mr. Pope's works. He did not want money, and he wanted fame. He would probably have given four or five thousand pounds to have been gratified in this desire; and gave Mr. Pope to understand as much. Mr. Pope would not comply with such a baseness; and when the Alderman died he left him only a legacy of a hundred pounds, which might have been some thousands if he had obliged him with only a couplet.—*Spence's Anecdotes.*

Enough is as good as Superabundance.—When Mr. Pope's nephew that had been used to the sea, refused a very handsome settlement that was offered him in the West Indies, and said that fifty pounds a year was all he wanted, and would make him happy, Mr. Pope, instead of using any arguments to persuade him not to refuse so advantageous a proposal, immediately offered to settle the yearly sum upon him which he said would make him happy.—*Ibid.*

The Tendency of Writing.—No writing is good that does not tend to benefit mankind in some way or other. Mr. Waller has said that "he wished every thing of his burnt that did not impress some moral."—*Ibid.*

Poetry well paid for, and yet a good bargain to the Purchaser.—A little after Dr. Young had published his Universal Passion, the Duke of Wharton made him a present of 2000l. for it.—When a friend of the Duke's, who was surprised at the largeness of the present, cried out, "What! two thousand pounds for a poem?" the Duke smiled, and said it was the best bargain he ever made in his life, for it was fairly worth four thousand.—*Ibid.*

Contentment.—There are two sorts of contentment; one is connected with exertion, the other with habits of indolence: the first is a virtue, the second a vice. You may sometimes see a man in sound health submitting day after day, to evils which a few hours labor would remedy; and you are provoked to hear him say; "It will do well enough for me. Didn't it do for my father before me? I can make a shift with things for my time—any how I'm contented." No man ought to be contented with any evils which he can remedy by his own industry and exertion.—*Miss Edgeworth.*

TERMS OF THE FARMER.

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